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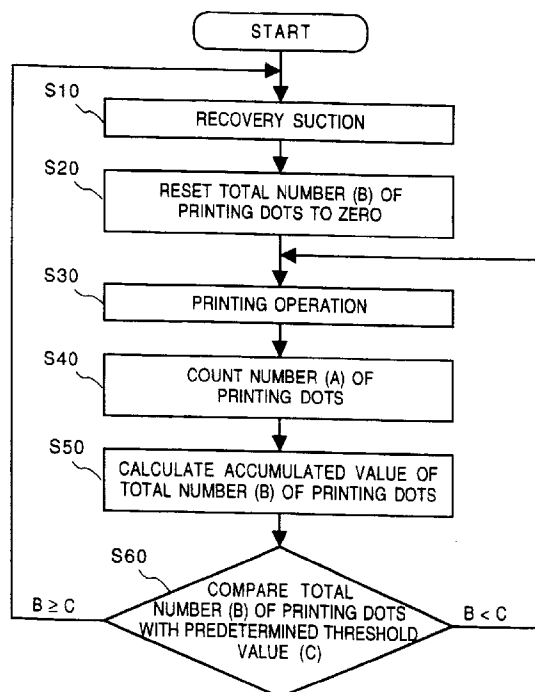
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(54) Recovery method for ink jet printer

(57) A printing apparatus which maintains excellent image quality even in a long printing operation. In printing, the number of ink droplets (number of printing dots: A) discharged from a printhead IJH is counted by each printing operation. The counted number is accumulated

to the total number (B) of printing dots from a point where a previous recovery suction has been started. Next, the total number (B) of printing dots is compared with a predetermined threshold value (C). If $B < C$ holds, the printing is continued. If $B \geq C$ holds, recovery suction using a suction unit 5015 is performed.

FIG. 3**EP 0 694 403 A3**



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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| DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT | | | |
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| Category | Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages | Relevant to claim | CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6) |
| X | EP-A-0 589 581 (HEWLETT-PACKARD) * column 3, line 4 - column 8, line 19; figure * | 1,2,5,6, 11-17 | B41J2/165 |
| X | --- PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 16, no. 293 (M-1273), 29 June 1992 & JP-A-04 080041 (CANON INC.), 13 March 1992, * abstract * | 1,5,16, 17 | |
| A | --- PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 17, no. 377 (M-1446), 15 July 1993 & JP-A-05 064890 (CANON INC.), 19 March 1993, * abstract * | 3,4,7,8 | |
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| The present search report has been drawn up for all claims | | | |
| Place of search THE HAGUE | | Date of completion of the search 18 July 1996 | Examiner De Groot, R |
| <p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p> | | | |

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